



The Old Ironsides Report

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2nd ACR troops in Baghdad open mom-and-pop shop they call CavMart

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BAGHDAD, Iraq – It is not the biggest retail store in Baghdad, but soldiers wearing every unit patch in the city have shopped at Camp Dragoon's CavMart.

Set up in a former Iraqi army weapons storeroom, the CavMart boasts shelves stocked with health care items, personal hygiene supplies, batteries, soft drinks and snacks.

And, coming just in time for the holiday shopping season, there will be a Christmas store stocked with traditional Western holiday gifts and decorations coupled with traditional Iraqi crafts and souvenirs, said store manager Master Sgt. Patrick Sanchez, chemical operations NCO, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment.

The 2nd ACR, based at Fort Polk, La., is attached to the 1st Armored Division for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Camp Dragoon's 900-soldier population makes it too small for the Army and Air Force Exchange Service to set up one of own retail outlets, Sanchez said. Instead, the exchange works with units to support smaller, soldier-managed stores in outlying camps. Soldiers run the stores, pick up merchandise and manage the money.

In addition to meeting soldiers' basic shopping needs, the store had one other requirement. Sanchez said the regiment's command sergeant major said, "Make it feel like it was in Des Moines, Iowa."

"I'm from Kansas. I had it in my mind what I remembered from when I was a kid, Sanchez said.

So the troopers set about to open a store. After a long day's work of cleaning, removing old ammunition and scrounging around the camp for shelves, the store was ready for its first load of merchandise.

The store's name came naturally – they simply picked something that sounded good, he said. The U.S. Cavalry troopers called it CavMart.

"I think now we've just about hit it," he said. "Our soldiers like coming in here. I have regulars that come in on a daily basis. We try to run it like a little mom and pop shop."

Conversation and a friendly atmosphere are just as important to the customers as the products on the shelves, he said.

"I think soldiers feel good coming in here. It gives them a feeling of being back home," he said. "We always try to keep a happy and cheery atmosphere because we know it is rough out there."

The five soldier-salespersons, all members of the regimental chemical section, spend one week working in the regiment's tactical operations center and the next working at the store, Sanchez said.

There is more to running the store than just stocking shelves and running the till, Sanchez said. Supply runs to the main AAFES exchange on Baghdad International Airport start at 5:15 a.m. four days a week. Stocking, inventorying and managing the paperwork can keep soldiers working until 9 p.m.

The store may exist for soldiers' convenience, but it also helps Iraqis, said translator Isameel Al Saffer, one of the store's primary suppliers. The store resells Iraqi crafts and artwork made by local artisans. That puts money back into the re-emerging Iraqi economy.

"It helps the store get things that are unavailable through AAFES and it makes things good for Iraq," he said.



Master Sgt. Patrick Sanchez, chemical operations NCO, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, discusses possible additions to what the store carries with translator Isameel Al Saffer, one of the store's primary suppliers.

Although they did not deploy to work as store associates, members of the chemical section are making a positive difference in soldiers' lives, said Staff Sgt. Aretha Howard. The store is a great morale booster for soldiers. They appreciate efforts to bring in special items and the quality, friendly service.

"I deployed here thinking I was going to be doing great things with WMDs (weapons of mass destruction), she said. "When I got here, I had to change my thinking a lot. Things here at the CavMart are just as important."

A Smart Tip From 1AD Safety

How to Use Jacks Safely

Always set the jack on a firm and level foundation.

- ✓ **Use a jack with a rated capacity that equals or exceeds the load you're lifting.**
- ✓ **Set the jack perpendicular, at a right angle, to the load.**
- ✓ **Have enough help when you install or move a jack.**
- ✓ **Before working under a raised load install blocking to keep the load from accidentally falling. Keep jacks in good shape and well lubricated, but only lubricate at the points where lubrication is specified.**
- ✓ **Check for broken teeth and other defects. Never throw or drop jacks.**
- ✓ **When a jack develops any defect whatever, turn it in for repair and be sure to test it under load before putting it back in service.**

NEWS

Commander Says Saddam Likely in Tikrit

TIKRIT, Iraq (AP) - Deposed Iraqi President Saddam Hussein probably is in hiding in or around his hometown of Tikrit, the commander of American troops there said Friday. Maj. Gen. Ray Odierno said troops from the 4th Infantry Division had captured several of Saddam's former bodyguards in the past month.

FBI Issues Wanted Bulletin for 4 Men

WASHINGTON (AP) - The FBI issued a bulletin Friday announcing a worldwide search for four men in connection with possible terrorist threats against the United States. The FBI posted the bulletin on its Web site and circulated it among law enforcement agencies after recent intelligence indicated the four could be involved in an unspecified plot against U.S. interests, said a law enforcement official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Storms Henri and Fabian Pick Up Steam

STEINHATCHEE, Fla. (AP) - A wet and slow-moving Tropical Storm Henri pushed heavy rain into Florida's Gulf Coast Friday, threatening to fill rivers and streams already full after one of the wettest summers in recent years. In Bermuda, meanwhile, businesses boarded up offices, and residents rushed to prepare as Hurricane Fabian picked up speed on its path toward the island. The storm, expected to pass near or over the island later Friday, could be one of Bermuda's worst in years, forecasters said.

Law Official Details Bank-Bomb Note

ERIE, Pa. (AP) - An extensive note found with a pizza deliveryman who was killed by a bomb after robbing a bank last week instructed him to go to three locations after the crime, a law enforcement official told The Associated Press. The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, would not confirm a report that the note said the deliveryman, Brian Douglas Wells, could find instructions at those locations on how to disarm the explosive that had been locked to his body.

Chaplain's thought for the day: ***Welcome Criticism***

A fool despises his father's instruction, but he who receives correction is prudent.

—Proverbs 15:5

In an article written a number of years ago there was an interesting piece about cancer researcher Dr. Robert Good. He was described as a hard-driving individual with an enormous faculty for new ideas and the ability to make use of any information that came to him. But what is most impressive is a statement that credited him with a willingness to recognize an error in his theories and abandon them faster than anyone else in medical research. An associate said, "Dr. Good never gets married to his hypotheses, so he doesn't go through the pangs of divorce when one is proven wrong." Proverbs 9 puts a high premium on such readiness to see one's error and admit it. It describes a wise man as one who wants to learn from his mistakes. When challenged, he resists the urge to get his back up like a threatened tomcat. Instead, correction becomes a faithful friend and a necessary means to improvement (v.9).

If criticism comes your way, welcome its intent; it may be that some truth from God through it is being sent.

SPORTS

Redskins Defeat Jets 16-13 in NFL Opener

LANDOVER, Md. (AP) -- John Hall kicked a 33-yard field goal with 5 seconds to play, giving the Washington Redskins a 16-13 victory over the New York Jets in the NFL's season opener. Hall, one of four Jets free agents signed by the Redskins in the offseason, also made kicks of 50 and 22 yards as each of the so-called JetSkins did his part in a grudge match created by an offseason player tug-of-war. Patrick Ramsey, not the most nimble quarterback in the world, set up the winning score with a 24-yard scramble to New York's 31-yard line. Ladell Betts carried three times for 17 yards to wind down the clock for Hall's attempt. Laveranues Coles made sure his old team noticed him, dancing and scowling his way for 106 yards receiving on five catches - all in the first half. Chad Morton was solid in his debut as the Redskins' return man, and guard Randy Thomas' blocking paved the way for an attack that went surprisingly conservative in the second half. Ramsey completed 17 of 23 passes for 185 yards, but only 29 yards came after halftime. He also turned over the ball twice in the second half, setting up two Jets field goals that tied the game. The game, the NFL's second annual Thursday night opener, was preceded by a three-hour concert on the Washington Mall featuring Britney Spears, Aerosmith, Mary J. Blige and Aretha Franklin. Hundreds of thousands attended the bash, which was also paid tribute to U.S. troops coming home from Iraq and Afghanistan. The JetSkins made their presence known right away. Morton returned the opening kickoff 23 yards. Coles made a 25-yard catch over the middle and celebrated with a mini-dance. Thomas helped pave the way for the 12-play drive capped by Hall's first field goal. But the Jets went all the way on their opening drive, with coach Herman Edwards successfully gambling on fourth-and-goal from the 1-yard line. He took top rusher Curtis Martin out and gave the ball to LaMont Jordan, who leaped over the pile and into the end zone. Spurrier did his own fourth-and-1 trick on the next drive, with Betts converting with a short run at the Jets 27. Darnerien McCants finished the drive with a 4-yard TD catch to put Washington ahead 10-7. Coles went over the 100-yard receiving mark on the next drive. Ramsey somehow ducked under blitzing linebacker Mo Lewis and found Coles for a 48-yard gain over backup safety Tyrone Carter, who entered after Jon McGraw left with a concussion on a helmet-to-helmet tackle. Coles jawed at the sidelines after that catch, then gave an emphatic "first down" sign after a 22-yard reception two plays later. The catch set up Hall's 22-yard field goal, making the halftime score 13-7. Ramsey's second turnover set up another field goal that tied the score in the fourth quarter. John Abraham, who had two sacks, stripped Ramsey of the ball, and Jason Ferguson recovered at Washington's 43. Five plays later, Brien made a 41-yard field goal with 8:13 to play.